

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 04068 300802 Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 300605 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1082

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 4068

EXDIS

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

DEPT PASS CJCS, CINCPAC, SECDEF, & COMUSSAG

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CB

SUBJECT: PROPOSALS FOR ORIENTATION VISIT OF BGEN LON NON TO THE
UNITED STATES JUNE 15- AUGUST 15, 1973

REF: PHNOM PENH 3756

1. BGEN LON NON, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, TWO INFANT
CHILDREN, AND LTCOL TAN SUOR (AN AIDE), WILL LEAVE
PHNOM PENH LATE TODAY APRIL 30 FOR PARIS. HE WILL
SPEND A MONTH IN FRANCE, PART OF IT VISITING HIS

CHILDREN RESIDENT THERE AND PART IN TREATMENT AT THE
AMERICAN HOSPITAL IN NEUILLY, BEFORE DEPARTING FOR THE
UNITED STATES ON JUNE 1. HIS PLAN IS TO LEAVE THE
TWO INFANT CHILDREN IN PARIS IN THE CARE OF HIS YOUNGER
BROTHER LON KENG, AN OFFICIAL OF THE KHMER DELEGATION TO
UNESCO, AND TO PROCEED TO THE UNITED STATES ONLY WITH
MRS. LON NON AND LTCOL TAN SUOR. AT SOME POINT HE WILL
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PAGE 02 PHNOM 04068 300802 Z

BE JOINED EITHER IN PARIS OR IN THE UNITED STATES BY
KONG ORN, AN ENGLISH- SPEAKING OFFICIAL WELL KNOWN TO US

WHO WAS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT RESIGNING MAY2.

2. BGEN LON NON INDICATED TO ME DURING AN HOUR- LONG PRIVATE CONVERSATION APRIL 27 THAT HE PROVISIONALLY PLANS TO SPEND HIS FIRST TWO WEEKS IN THE UNITED STATES ON PRIVATE BUSINESS. HIS OLDEST SON (BY HIS FIRST WIFE, A FRENCHWOMAN) IS ENROLLED IN A PRIVATE SHCOOL IN MIAMI; AND HIS NEPHEWS (MARSHAL LON NOL' S SONS) ARE STAYING WITH FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY IN NEW YORK AREA.

3. HE WILL THEREFORE BE AVAILABLE FOR AN OFFICIAL ORIENTATION VISIT ABOUT JUNE 15, WHICH WE THINK SHOULD LAST UNTIL AT LEAST JULY 31 AND IF SCHEDULING AND LON NON' S PLANS PERMIT, UNTIL AUGUST 15. THE VISIT WOULD SEEM TO US TO FIT IDEALLY INTO TWO PARTS.

(A) THE FIRST, A VIP LEADER GRANT TOUR FINANCED BY CU, WITH INTERPRETER AND FIRST CLASS TRAVEL PRIVILEGES, TO LAST FROM ABOUT JUNE 15 TO MID- OR LATE JULY. THIS WOULD EXPOSE HIM TO GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS, US HISTROY, EDUCATION, CULTURE, INDUSTRY, AND AGRICULTURE AND SHOULD INCLUDE MEETINGS WITH UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS SINCE NON HAS EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN SOCIOLOGY, POLITICS, AND ECONOMICS. HE IS ALSO VERY INTERESTED IN AGRICULTURE WHERE US EXPERIENCE IS RELEVANT TO CAMBODIA' S DEVELOPMENT POSSIBILITIES.

(B) THE SECOND, A DOD FINANCED AND SPONSORED TOUR OF MILITARY INSTALLATIONS OF SEVERAL WEEKS' DURATION.

4. AS WE HAVE COMMENTED EARLIER, NON WILL BE CARRYING A MESSAGE AND POSSIBLY A GIFT FROM THE MARSHAL FOR PRESIDENT NIXON. WHILE HE WILL PROBABLY WISH TO DELIVER THESE, ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY PERSONALLY, AT THE START OF HIS VISIT, WE THINK THERE IS MERIT IN SCHEDULING HIS OTHER OFFICIALS CALLS AT STATE, DEFENSE, AND (IF DESIRE) THE NSC EITHER AT THE END OF HIS VISIT OR DURING THE INTERVAL
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PAGE 03 PHNOM 04068 300802 Z

BETWEEN THE CIVILAN AND MILITARY SECTIONS OF IT. NEVER VERY ARTICULATE, HE WILL HAVE MORE TO SAY AND BE MORE AT EASE AFTER AT LEAST A PART OF THE PROGRAM IS BEHIND HIM.

5. NON EXPRESSED NO RPT NO SPECIFIC INTEREST IN HAVING HIS WIFE ACCOMPANY HIM ON THE TOURS. WE BELIEVE HE MAY WISH TO INCLUDE LTCOL TAN SUOR AND KONG ORN, EVEN AT THIS OWN EXPENSE, ALTHOUGH THESE DETAILS REMAIN TO BE NEGOTIATED. WHEN I ASKED IF HE WOULD REQUIRE AN INTERPRETER EVEN IF KONG ORN WERE ALONG, HE IMMEDIATELY

ANSWERED THAT HE WOULD WANT ONE. WE CONSIDER AN
INTERPRETER- GUIDE OF SPECIAL POLITICAL SENSITIVITY
ESSENTIAL THROUGHOUT THE OFFICIAL VISIT.

6. A GOOD PART OF OUR CONVERSATION DEALT WITH THE
CONTROVERSY IN THE UNITED STATES OVER CAMBODIA, AND I
SOUGHT TO PREPARE HIM FOR QUESTIONS OF AN UNFRIENDLY
AND UNSYMPATH THE PERSISTENCE OF DRV AGGRESSION AGAINST IT AND
PLANS FOR DRV HEGEMONY IN INDO- CHINA; (B) THE READINESS
OF THE GKR FOR A CEASE FIRE AND A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT
AS CONTRASTED TO GRUNK INTRANSIGENCE; (C) THE NEED FOR
NVA/ VC WITHDRAWALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PARIS
AGREEMENT: AND (D) THE COMMON INTEREST OF ALL KHMER
IN PRESERVING THEIR SOVEREIGNTY OVER THEIR TERRITORY,
THE REAL BASIS FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

7. FOR HIS PART, NON SEEMS TO REGARD HIS FIRST VISIT TO
THE UNITED STATES AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND HIS
HORIZON AND BROADEN HIS UNDERSTANDING, WITH AN ULTIMATE
VIEW, NO DOUBT, TO PALYING A LATER LEADING ROLE IN
CAMBODIAN POLITICS. SINCE HIS AMBITION, DRIVE, INFLUENCE,
AND POSITION ARE THE VERY FACTORS WHICH QUALIFY HIM FOR
A LEADER GRANT, WE SHALL SIMPLY HAVE TO LIVE WITH AND
SEEK QUIETLY TO MODERATE THIS " STEPPING- STONE" ASPECT OF
THE VISIT. WE CERTAINLY DO NOT WANT HIM IN A
CONTINUING SPOTLIGHT, BUT NEITHER CAN WE DIVORCE HIM
ENTIRELY FROM THE LEGITIMATE MEDIA INTEREST HE MAY AROUSE.
PERHAPS A MEETING WITH THE MEDIA EARLY IN HIS LEADER-
GRANT TOUR WOULD BE THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH THIS
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PAGE 04 PHNOM 04068 300802 Z

POTENTIALLY TROUBLESOME ISSUE.

8. WE HAVE GIVEN NON THE NAME OF MARK PRATT AND A
CONTACT IN EMBASSY PARIS FOR CONSULTATIONS WHICH MAY BE
NECESSARY THERE IN ARRANGING THE PROGRAM OF HIS VISIT.

9. MANY KHMER CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT IF LON NON
COULD BE PERSUADED TO PROLONGHIS SOJOURN ABROAD BEYOND
THREE MONTHS THE IMPACT HERE COULD BE BENEFICIAL. THIS
POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE KEPT IN MIND AS A POINT TO BE
EXPLORED AT A LATER DATE, DEPENDING ON DEVELOPMENTS.
ENDERS

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES

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